

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1365



Introduced by Representative Ferdinand L. Hernandez

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO SET AND APPROVE THE BED CAPACITY AND THE SERVICE CAPABILITY OF ALL DOH HOSPITALS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It has become common for Filipinos from far-flung provinces to travel to urban cities for medical treatment because of the limited health services in their areas. This influx of patients leads to longer waiting time due to a lack of available space in the hospitals. Further, patients must shoulder additional travel expenses, thereby decreasing their capacity to pay for medical, surgical or therapeutic interventions.

Recent studies have also shown that the quality and availability of public health services in country has deteriorated, especially in the poor provinces. The imbalanced distribution of hospital beds as well as limited and dilapidated facilities has resulted in inaccessibility and inadequacy of hospital delivery system.

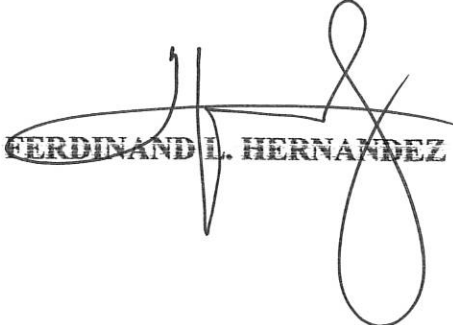
The 70 DOH retained public hospitals, of which 53 are general hospitals, 14 specialty hospitals, 2 infirmaries and 1 psychiatric facility complement the devolved district, provincial and private hospitals in providing health care services. In 2016, the average bed occupancy rate of all DOH Hospitals in 136%. Moreover, 61% of these hospitals have bed occupancy higher than the authorized bed capacity.

Under our present laws, a DOH hospital may only increase its bed capacity and upgrade its service capability through legislation. With the average duration of legislation process for this purpose ranging from eight months to three year, the DOH is unable to immediately address issues relating to the bed capacity and service capability of their retained public hospitals. Thus, there is a need to expedite the process for providing quality health services to the Filipino people.

This bill seeks to authorize the Department of health to administratively determine and approve the bed capacity and service capability of all DOH hospitals, as necessary. This delegation of responsibility shall result in the country's improved efficiency in the delivery of health services to sustain the increasing demands of patients.

This change will ensure that health services is distributed equitably to the whole population in terms of modern equipment, upgraded facilities and medical professionals to ensure access and availability of hospital services to all Filipinos.

Hence, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ

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Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

Section 1. Purpose, Scope, and Coverage. – This Act shall be streamline the process of approving changes in the authorized bed capacity and service capability of all DOH hospitals.

Section 2. Authority to Approve. – Authority is hereby granted to the DOH to adjust and approve the authorized bed capacity and service capability. Thereafter, the DOH shall, through an administrative order, determine the bed capacity and service capability of DOH hospitals, subject to specific guidelines that it shall issue and promulgate.

Section 3. Conversion, Upgrading and Modernization of DOH Hospitals. – The Department of Health shall upgrade and modernize the existing equipment and facilities of DOH hospitals to ensure that it shall be responsive to the health needs of the people commensurate to the bed capacity and service capability.

Section 4. Annual Report to Congress. – The Department of Health shall provide Congress, through the House and Senate Committees on Health, an annual report of hospitals with approved bed capacity and service capability, along with the necessary funding requirements.

Section 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). – The Department of Health shall come up with the IRR, within ninety (90) days after the law's effectivity.

Section 6. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 7. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,